

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /098 W

-----241522 028319 /53

R 241400Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9429

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0397

PARIS FOR MELONE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PORG OAU DM

SUBJ: OAU CONFERENCE AT LOME DISPATCHES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
TO COTONOU

1. GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) PARTICIPA-
TION IN LOME CONFERENCE HAS CONCENTRATED ON GPRB COMPLAINT
CONCERNING JANUARY 16 DAWN ATTACK ON COTONOU. PRESS COVERAGE
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HAS INCLUDED FULL TEXT OF OPENING SPEECH OF CHIEF OF DELEGATION,
GRAFIO CAPO-CHICHI, MEMBER OF POLITICAL BUREAU OF PARTY CENTRAL
COMMITTEE, WHICH CONSISTED SOLELY OF DEMANDS FOR OAU ON
"AGGRESSION" COMMITTEE AGAINST BENIN.

2. IN RESPONSE TO BENIN'S DEMAND, SPECIAL MISSION FROM OAU
ARRIVED IN COTONOU FEBRUARY 23 FROM LOME. ACCORDING TO PRESS

ACCOUNT MISSION, HEADED BY ALI TREKE, LIBYAN FONMIN, CONSISTS OF FONMINS FROM ANGOLA, NIGER, NIGERIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND GUINEA. MISSION ALSO WAS SUPPOSED TO INCLUDE ZAMBIAN FONMIN, WHO MAY HAVE ARRIVED LATER THAT NIGHT. MISSION ARRIVES ON THE HEELS OF PETER ONU, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU, WHOSE VISIT FEB 18 APPARENTLY YIELDED NO RESULTS OTHER THAN THE USUAL STATEMENTS OF DISMAY AND INDIGNATION OVER THE ATTACK.

3. CAPO-CHICHI'S SPEECH, GIVEN AT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 SESSION IN LOME, WAS MAINLY AN IDEOLOGY HARANGUE, BUT DID INCLUDE THE COMMENT THAT OAU "AT THE LEAST" SHOULD LOSE ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, AS A RESULT OF THAT COUNTRY'S COMPLICITY IN THE "COLONIAL RECONQUEST" ATTEMPT OF JANUARY 16. COUNTRY WAS NOT NAMED.

4. EDITORIAL PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 23 IN EHUZU (GOVERNMENT NEWS-PAPER) STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF LOME MEETING IN THE CONTEXT OF STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF THE CONTINENT. ANTI-WESTERN RHETORIC INCLUDED ACCUSATION THAT "IN ALL WESTERN CAPITALS, MEN--NOSTALGIC FOR THE "GOOD TIMES" OF COLONIALIZATION--WORK NIGHT AND DAY FOR THE DESTABILIZATION OR THE OVERTHROW OF PROGRESSIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY AFRICAN REGIMES..." EDITORIAL ENDS WITH CALL TO ACTION TO "GO BEYOND DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION."

5. POST WILL ADVISE OF FORTHER DEVELOPMENTS WITH OAU MISSION. THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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